



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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Opening Statement of Sen. Chuck Grassley Hearing on Nominations, Monday, March 8, 2004

Good afternoon. We are here this afternoon to consider four nominations – one for Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and three for the U.S. Department of the Treasury. I would like to welcome our nominees to the Finance Committee.

First, we have Dr. Mark McClellan, nominee for the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Dr. McClellan is no stranger to members of this Committee. He served on the President's Council of Economic Advisers in 2001 and 2002. There he developed a strong working relationship with Congress, providing expertise on a number of domestic economic issues, including creating a prescription drug benefit in Medicare. He is uniquely qualified for CMS, holding both an MD degree with board certification in internal medicine and a PhD in Economics. In recent years, Dr. McClellan has focused his research in measuring and improving the quality of health care.

And improving the quality of health care is what we will be talking about today. One of the most important issues facing this Committee is overseeing the implementation of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. After years of debate and inaction, Congress followed through on its promise to our nation's seniors to strengthen and improve the Medicare program by adding coverage for prescription drugs. It will be critical to have an experienced leader at the helm of CMS to ensure the agency is prepared to carry out all the details of the new program. We look forward to your testimony, Dr. McClellan, on the MMA and the other important work CMS is undertaking at this time.

Also on our panel this afternoon is Brian Roseboro. President Bush nominated Mr. Roseboro to be Under Secretary for Domestic Finance at the Department of the Treasury. Mr. Roseboro, who holds an MBA from Columbia University, currently serves at the Treasury Department as Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets, a position in which he has served with distinction since 2001. In this position, Mr. Roseboro was responsible for advising the Secretary on Federal credit policies and government lending and privatizing activities. We will also hear from Mr. Donald Korb, who has been nominated to serve as Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and Assistant General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury. Mr. Korb, an Ohio native, holds an LL.M. in taxation from Georgetown University. He also has an impressive 30-year record as a tax lawyer, including service in the Office of Chief Counsel at the IRS and two years as Assistant to the IRS Commissioner. Finally, we will hear testimony from Mark Warshawsky, who has been nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the Department of the Treasury. Mr. Warshawsky holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and has extensive experience as an economist. Since 2002, he has served in the Department of the Treasury as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Microeconomic Analysis.

Once again, I would like to welcome all of you to the Finance Committee this afternoon. I look forward to hearing your testimony.